

The Traveling Sisterhood, 1.1
Journeying with Juanita Harrison



Welcome to Unit 1 of 31. In this unit, we will explore the writings and life of Juanita Harrison, a freed slave, best-selling author, and explorer.

This week our emphasis is on PLEASURE. Juanita enjoyed life and travel with gusto. Let us begin.

Some basic background about the book is that it was based on a series of letters written by Juanita to a woman friend named Alice Foster. Foster helped her get her passport at 16 years old and assisted her in planning her world travels, as well as was key in her letters being published in series in the *Atlantic Monthly*. Juanita's travels of eight years are extraordinary, and her absolute joy for every place she went is noted. She never seemed to not like a place or a people and drank from the cup of travel with a delight that is rare to find in travel writing.

After her book was published, she went to Hawaii and lived on the beach and in a series of ramshackle houses, enjoying the relaxed pace of life. At some point, she decided to head to Brazil, where she stayed for several years until she again, went to Hawaii. She died in unknown circumstances and the year is also questionable, although it was in Hawaii. We know little about her life after book was published.

You'll be reading her book this week, or parts of it, as well as a few interviews, articles, etcetera about her book and her extraordinary life.

Readings:

1. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Juanita_Harrison
2. <https://www.nytimes.com/1936/05/17/archives/juanita-harrison-has-known-twentytwo-countries-my-great-wide.html>
3. <https://www.laphamsquarterly.org/roundtable/around-world-eight-years>
4. The book itself you can download or read the actual original book in photograph format, here:
<https://archive.org/details/mygreatwidebeaut00harr/page/n7/mode/2up>

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Our discussion for this book will be our zoom discussion next week. We'll do discussions the following week for each selected book. We have four archived books selected and this is the first one.

For more information, visit the group wall and your email.

Happy reading!

